



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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ST. PETERSBURG DRIVER'S LICENSE EXAMINER SENTENCED FOR PROVIDING FALSE IDENTIFICATION

David K. Copeland, age 45, was sentenced today to 41 months' imprisonment by United States District Judge Ricahrd A. Lazzara for violating the Hobbs Act by providing false identification, including fictitious driver's licenses and personal identification cards, to several individuals while he was working as an examiner with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Division of Driver Licenses. Copeland, who worked at the Driver's License office located at 4827 34th Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida, previously admitted in his plea agreement to receiving \$2,000 for unlawfully providing a driver's license to an individual who had a suspended license. In another instance, Copeland admitted he received \$300 for providing a fraudulent driver's license to another individual. Several of those individuals who were provided the false identification were later convicted in federal court on drug charges.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the St. Petersburg Police Department and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey S. Downing.